Sl. No.	Name of the State	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01
15.	Orissa	36	152	157
16.	Punjab	20	131	147
17.	Pondicherry	0	4	6
18.	Rajasthan	24	79	82
19.	Tamil Nadu	122	535	667
20.	Uttaranchal	0	2	4
21.	Uttar Pradesh	59	193	228
22.	West Bengal	36	131	226
	TOTAL:	1204	5657	6652

Telephone network in rural areas

† 1178. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had entrusted the work of setting up of telephone networks in rural areas to private and governmental institutions;

(b) if so, the number of villages where the work of setting up of telephone is entrusted to private and governmental institutions separately; and

(c) the number of villages where telephone facility had been set up by December, 2001, in both the sectors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) and (c) The details of voluntarily made commitments by these private companies for provision of Village Public Telephones (VPTs) *vis-a-vis* their achievements are enclosed as Statement. *(See below)* In addition, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (earlier Department of Telecom Services/Department of Telecom Operations) has also been continuing with provision of Village Public Telephones throughout the country. So far 4,15,835 number of villages as on 31.12.2001 out of 6,07,491 number of villages in the country have been provided with VPT.

Statement

Provision of Village Public Telephones (VPTs) by Private Licensees

SI. No.	Licenses! and Licensed Circle	Effective Date of License	Committee targets* for VPTs in first three years (as per obligations under Licence Agreement)			Total No. of committed VPTs in 1" 3 years	No. of VPTs actually provided® (31.12.01)
			I Year	n Year	III Year		
1.	M/s Tata Teleservices (Andhra Pradesh)	30.9.1997	9635 (by 30.9.1998)	(All Villages were to be convered in first year i.e. by 30.9.1998)		9635	15
2.	M/s Reliance Telecom (Gujarat)	30.9.1997	8635 (by 30.9.1998)	(All Villages were to be convered in first year i.e. by 30.9.1998)		8635	Nil
3.	M/s HFCL Motel Ltd. (Punjab)	30.9.1997	5442 (by 30.9.1998)	(All Villages were to be convered in first year i.e. by 30.9.1998)		5442	1
4.	M/s Hughes Tele. Com. (India) Limited (Maharashtra)	30.9.1997	4000 (by 30.9.1998)	21760 (by 30.9.99)	No. village was to be left uncovered by 30.9.99)	25760	102
5.	M/s. Bharti Telenet (Madhya Pradesh)	30.9.1997	5500 (by 30.9.1998)	5500 (by 30.9.2000)	5500 (by 30.9.1999)	15600	348
6.	M/s Sbyam Telelink (Rajas than)	04.3.1998	7439 (by 4.3.1999)	10629 (by 4.3.2001)	13766 (by 4.3.2000)	31834 [36727]**	209
			40651	37889	19266	97806	675

* Translated into absolute terms based on bid/tender documents keeping in view the committed targetrs for direct Exchange Lines (DELs) and the figure for number of uncovered villages indicated in the tender.

**The total number of uncoverd villages in Rajasthan Service area in only 321834 as against the licensee's commitment of 36727.

@As reported by the licensees.